

## GASKET FACTORY

They liked to sneak up behind each other  
and goose each other  
with yard sticks and hammer handles and broom handles  
seeing how far they could make each other jump.  
They liked to talk about  
County Jail and wolf tickets and ripped assholes.  
They liked to climb over each other  
to get a good view of the secretary  
when she swayed her ass up and down the aisle.  
They liked to talk about the blow jobs she  
was giving the company president in his office  
during lunch.  
They liked to shout in deep  
booming voices about NFL games,  
sticking their chests out and strutting about  
bragging about how much they could bench-press,  
poking each other in the chest  
and pulling each other's beards  
as they called each other niggers  
and mex's and buddhaheads.

They were true buddies.

## SOLIDARITY

The workers  
like to slam one heat-treated steel part against another  
as they stack them in the steel bins.  
After a worker executes a particularly loud ringing slam,  
he will lift his face  
to the tin ceiling 50 feet above  
and begin hooting and screaming.  
Other workers will join in  
and the hooting and screaming  
will grow louder and louder,  
the workers encouraging and answering each other across the  
steel mill  
until every one of them is swept up  
in a resounding chorus  
that sends chills up the spines of the supervisors.

This is not the kind of cooperation  
that the supervisors had in mind  
when they talked to the workers  
about working together for a better future.